

DECEMBER 10, 2007

MICHAEL W. DOBBINS
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

07 C 6938

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF) CIVIL ACTION
OPERATING ENGINEERS,)
LOCAL 150, AFL-CIO,) NO.
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) JUDGE
)
PRAIRIE ROCK)
EXCAVATING, L.L.C., an Illinois)
limited liability company,)
)
Defendant.)
)

**JUDGE MANNING
MAGISTRATE JUDGE COLE**

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, AFL-CIO (hereinafter, "Local 150"), brings this action to enforce an arbitration award entered against Defendant Prairie Rock Excavating, L.L.C, a limited liability company, ("the Company"). In support Local 150 states as follows:

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 301 of the Labor-Management Relations Act (LMRA) of 1947, 29 U.S.C. §185.
2. Local 150 is a labor organization representing employees in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 2(5), (6) and (7) of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. §§152(5), (6) and (7), and Section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. §185. Its principal offices are located at 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois, within the geographic jurisdiction of this Court.

3. The Company is a limited liability company and an employer in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6) and (7) of the NLRA, 29 U.S.C. §§152(2), (6) and (7) and Section 301 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. §185. The Company's principal offices are located at 4345 DiPaolo Center, Glenview, Illinois.

4. On or about May 3, 2006, the Company executed a "Memorandum of Agreement" with Local 150 (a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit A).

5. By its terms, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Company and Local 150 adopted the collective bargaining agreement between Local 150 and Excavators, Inc. known as the Heavy and Highway and Underground Agreement (the "Master Agreement") then in effect, as well as any and all subsequent master agreements entered into between Local 150 and Excavators, Inc. (a true and correct copy of the Master Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit B).

6. Article XIII, Section 1 of the Master Agreement effective June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2007 entitled "GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATION" states as follows (Ex. B at 42-45):

ARTICLE XIII

Section 1 - Grievances and Arbitration - For the purpose of this Agreement, the term "grievance" is any claim or dispute involving an interpretation or application of the Agreement by an employee, or an Employer, or the Union, or the Association that one of the other of the aforesaid persons or organization is violating or has violated this Agreement.

STEP 1. A grievance shall first be taken up between the Union's Business Representative assigned to the job and a designated representative of the Employer. The Union must file the grievance within forty-five (45) days of the date of occurrence giving rise to the grievance or when the affected employee knew or reasonably should have known of the existence of the grievance. Grievances not filed within the forty-five (45) day period are deemed waived and are not subject to being processed through this procedure.

The above forty-five (45) day limit may be waived for violations of Article III Section 1 – Work Day Work Week, Eight Hour Guarantee, Show Up Pay, Call Off and Prep Time. Also, Article III Sections 2 and 3. The liability shall be for three (3) years of the violation, verified by audit. Audit fees shall be paid for by the Company, along with a 10% penalty payable to the Union.

STEP 2. In the event the grievance cannot be resolved within seven (7) working days of the STEP ONE conference, it shall be reduced to writing and referred for conference and resolution by designated officials of the Union and the Contractor at a pre-grievance hearing to be held at the office of Local 150, 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois unless another location is mutually agreed to.

STEP 3. In the event the grievance cannot be resolved by STEP TWO, the written grievance shall be submitted within fifteen (15) days to the Joint Grievance Committee created in this Article.

The Union and Association have together created a Joint Grievance Committee to resolve grievances arising under this Agreement. This Committee shall consist of an equal number of members representing Employers and the Union. The Union or Association may appoint alternate members.

The Joint Grievance Committee shall have the power to resolve all grievances before it and shall have the right to examine all records of the Employers and employees as is reasonably necessary to resolve the grievance.

Where the Joint Grievance Committee, by majority vote, resolves a grievance, no appeal may be taken and such resolution shall be final and binding on all parties and individuals bound by this Agreement.

If the Joint Grievance Committee is unable to resolve a grievance by majority vote, the grievance may be submitted within thirty (30) days to a neutral arbitrator. If the Union and the Association or the Employer, as the case may be, cannot agree on an arbitrator, then an arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association. The cost of such arbitrator shall be borne equally by both parties to the arbitration, and the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties and individuals bound by this Agreement.

The time limits provided in this Section may be extended by mutual written consent of the Union, the Association and/or the Employer.

Neither the Joint Grievance Committee nor an arbitrator shall have any authority to add to, detract from, or in any way alter the provisions of this Agreement or make a new Agreement.

Decision of the Joint Grievance Committee and Arbitration Awards shall be complied with within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision by the losing party. A party which fails to comply with the seven (7) day period shall be required to pay an additional ten (10%) percent of all amounts owed as liquidated damages for failure to comply with the decision or award. In the event the prevailing party is required to file suit to enforce the decision or award, and it prevails, it shall be entitled to recover its costs, including attorney's fees, from the losing party.

There shall be no lockout by an Employer during the term of this Agreement.

Except as provided in Article XX, Section 1 (Penalty for Failure to Pay Pension and/or Health and Welfare and/or Vacation Contributions and/or Dues Check Off), and 2 (Penalty for Failure to Pay Wages), and Section 4 (Legitimate Picket Line) of this Agreement, there shall be no strikes or work stoppages by the Union during the term of this Agreement.

7. In June 2006, a dispute arose between Local 150 and the Company under the terms of the Master Agreement. Local 150 alleged that the Company had failed to employ persons referred from the hiring hall and failed to pay the wages and benefits set forth in the Master Agreement in violation of the Article XII (Hiring) provisions of the Master Agreement. The parties attempted to resolve the dispute at a Step One conference pursuant to the Master Agreement but were unable to do so.

8. Pursuant to Step Two of the Master Agreement, on June 26, 2006, Local 150 reduced the grievance against the Company to writing and sought to set up a meeting whereby it could be resolved (a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit C). The parties were unable to resolve the dispute at the Step Two proceeding. Consequently, pursuant to Step Three of the contractual grievance procedure, Local 150 submitted the grievance against the Company to the Joint Grievance Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "JGC").

9. On January 25, 2007, the JGC conducted a hearing into the grievance brought by Local 150 against the Company. (A true and correct copy of the hearing notice is attached hereto

as Exhibit D). Based upon the evidence presented at the hearing, the JGC awarded Local 150 \$3,340.96 in lost wages and benefits.

10. By letter dated January 26, 2007, the JGC informed the Company of its decision and award (a true and correct copy is attached hereto as Exhibit E). Despite repeated demands by Local 150, the Company has failed and refused to comply with the JGC award.

11. The Company failed to comply with the JGC award within seven (7) days. Therefore, pursuant to Step Three of the contractual grievance procedure, the Company is required to pay an additional ten (10%) percent of all amounts owed as liquidated damages for its failure to comply with the decision or award.

12. In addition, the Company must, pursuant to the Master Agreement, pay the attorney's fees and costs of Local 150 incurred due to the necessity of pursuing this action.

WHEREFORE, Local 150 prays that the Court enter an order:

- A. Enforcing the JGC award finding the Company in violation of the Master Agreement;
- B. Compelling the Company to pay Local 150 \$3,340.96 in lost wages and benefits and \$334.10 representing ten (10%) percent liquidated damages, or a total of **\$3,675.06** for violation of the Master Agreement;
- C. Awarding Local 150 its costs and attorneys' fees for this action; and
- D. Awarding such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: December 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING
ENGINEERS, LOCAL 150, AFL-CIO,

By: s/Melissa L. Binetti

Attorneys for the Plaintiff

Name and Address of Attorneys for the Plaintiff:

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